



ROYAL SPEECH
by
His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath
NORODOM SIHAMONI,
King of Cambodia
At the Royal Banquet
Hosted by
Their Majesties Emperor AKIHITO
Emperor of Japan
and
Her Majesty Empress MICHIKO
Empress of Japan

Tokyo, 17 May 2010



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Your Majesty the Emperor of Japan,
Your Majesty the Empress of Japan,

May I, at the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and on my own behalf, extend to Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the Japanese Government and the courageous people of Japan, our sincere gratitude for the great honour bestowed upon us by Your Majesties hosting our historic visit to your prestigious and ancient country. We are deeply touched by the warm welcoming extended to us by Your Majesties, the government and the people of Japan in a great spirit of friendship and fraternity. I would also like to extend to Your Majesty my sincere appreciation for your welcoming and meaningful speech at this Royal Banquet.

On this splendid and historic occasion, I am truly honoured to pay a State Visit to Japan, which has long been one of Cambodia's oldest friends. Indeed, our relations go very far back and my visit at this time is the continuation of the historic bonds of friendship,

co-operation and fraternity binding the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Empire of Japan, which have been nurtured for many years by Their Majesties Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to convey to Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the warmest regards and good wishes of His Majesty Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the Heroic King and Father of National Independence, Territorial Integrity and Unity of Cambodia and of Her Majesty Queen Mother Norodom Monineath. Their Majesties have also asked me to convey their best regards to the members of the Imperial Family of Japan and the senior members of the Government of Japan.

Your Majesty,

The bonds linking Cambodia and Japan are ancient and they have been developed and strengthened by the exchange of official visits between the leaders of both countries, as well as by the trade, commercial and cultural exchanges between our two peoples. I would like, on this auspicious occasion, to acknowledge the many Japanese citizens who have worked, in friendship and solidarity, hand in hand with the Cambodian people in the reconstruction and restoration of our country after years of war.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Your Majesty, the Japanese government and the people of Japan for the generous assistance extended to Cambodia and her people in many fields of our national reconstruction, such as clearing of mines, infrastructure building, health as well as the restoration and rebirth of Cambodia's ancient monuments and arts.

The people of Cambodia greatly appreciate and admire the leading role played by Your Majesty the Emperor of Japan and the senior members of the Government of Japan in the continuous and outstanding development of Japan, which has given one of the highest standards of living to the people of Japan. We extend our warmest congratulations and sincere good wishes for the continuous prosperity of the people of Japan under Your Majesty's wise guidance.

It is my earnest hope that this my first State Visit to Japan as an honoured guest of Your Majesty the Emperor of Japan shall be a further contribution to strengthening the existing links between our Royal Families, our two countries and peoples, as well as being an expression of the strong feelings of gratitude, friendship and fraternity of the Cambodian people for the people of Japan, who have always stood firmly with the Royal Government and people of Cambodia to assist our Kingdom in accomplishing the restoration and rebuilding of the Nation in all fields of economic and social development.

I am truly honoured to request Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to join me on a toast:

-To the good health, happiness and longevity of His Majesty Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan and Her Majesty Empress Michiko, Empress of Japan;

-To the continuous well being, happiness and prosperity of the noble people of Japan.

-To the enduring friendship between the Empire of Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you very much.
